

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13
ISO-00 OIC-02 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 DOEE-00 JUSE-00 /169 W
-----075457 151508Z /50

P 151439Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0887
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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USMTN
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY
STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, SN
SUBJECT: BILATERAL WITH SINGAPORE ON MTN

REF: SINGAPORE 2523

1. ON JUNE 12, USDEL HELD ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF
BILATERALS WITH WEE ENG LIM, SINGAPORE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OFFICIAL WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO GENEVA TO COVER THE MTN,
TO DISCUSS FRAMEWORK, ENABLING CLAUSE, AND RELATED ISSUES.
WEE'S TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT TO GENEVA IS OBVIOUSLY BELATED
FULFILLMENT OF SINGAPORE'S COMMITMENT TO AMBASSADOR WOLFF
TO BEEF UP ITS GENEVA MISSION FOR THE MTN, AND HIS
PRESENCE HERE IS USEFUL SINCE NO ONE IN SMALL (TWO-MAN)
SINGAPORE MISSION PREVIOUSLY DEALT WITH MTN. AT HIS
REQUEST, USDEL HAS HAD SEVERAL MEETING WITH HIM ON VARIOUS
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TOPICS SINCE HIS ARRIVAL THREE WEEKS AGO IN AN EFFORT TO
GET HIM "UP TO SPEED" ON THE MTN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN
VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE JULY 15.

2. IN ADDITION TO INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF FRAMEWORK, USDEL
REITERATED NEED FOR WRITTEN STATEMENT OF SINGAPORE'S OFFER
BEFORE U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO SINGAPORE'S REQUESTS.

WE POINTED OUT THAT WRITTEN OFFERS ARE A PART OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND THAT NO ONE'S HONOR IS AT QUESTION. WE ALSO NOTED THAT SEVERAL OTHER LDC'S HAD TABLED WRITTEN OFFERS RECENTLY IN SOME DETAIL, SUCH AS BRAZIL AND INDIA, AND THEREFORE SINGAPORE DOES NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING TOO FAR "OUT FRONT" IN GIVING US A WRITTEN OFFER.

3. WEE, WHO SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND U.S. NEED FOR WRITTEN OFFER AND WHO MADE DETAILED PITCH TO HIS AUTHORITIES TWO WEEKS AGO, SAID THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT TRADE DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DIRECTOR LEONG CHEE WHYE HAD RECOMMENDED TO HIS SUPERIORS THAT SINGAPORE GIVE US A WRITTEN OFFER, AND HE HOPED ONE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON. THIS IS BY NO MEANS ASSURED, HOWEVER, SINCE THIS IS A SURPRISINGLY SENSITIVE ISSUE FOR SINGAPORE, AND LEONG'S SUPERIORS COULD OVERRULE HIM.

4. ON OTHER MATTERS, WEE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A FULL REPORT ON THE JAPAN/ASEAN MEETING IN TOKYO, BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT JAPAN HAD PROMISED "SOMETHING FOR EACH ASEAN COUNTRY." HE WAS A BIT SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, AND WONDERED IF THESE CONCESSIONS WOULD BE ON USEFUL ITEMS OR NOT. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE EC HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING TO THE ASEAN'S DURING THEIR MEETING TWO WEEKS AGO, AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK TO GET THE EC'S RESPONSE TO SINGAPORE'S TARIFF REQUESTS. HE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDICATIONS THAT THE EC WOULD BE FAIRLY FORTHCOMING.

5. COMMENT: EVEN THOUGH U.S. HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO SINGAPORE'S REQUESTS, DUE TO INTERAGENCY CLEARING PROCESS (AND LACK OF WRITTEN OFFER), WEE HAS CONTINUED TO BE VERY POSITIVE. (NOTE: AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, USDEL DID NOT PROMISE TO IMPROVE U.S. OFFER IN APRIL BILATERAL AS ANTHONY CHNG IMPLIED (REFTEL), BUT WE DID PROMISE TO CONSIDER SINGAPORE'S REQUESTS IN LIGHT OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION.) USDEL BELIEVES THAT IF WE CAN GIVE INDICATION OF POSITIVE RESPONSE TO EVEN A PORTION OF SINGAPORE'S REQUESTS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH SINGAPORE WHICH WILL INCLUDE MEANINGFUL TARIFF REDUCTIONS AND BINDINGS OF SINGAPORE TARIFFS ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US. INTERESTINGLY, WEE SAYS THAT SINGAPORE ORIGINALLY EXPECTED THE U.S. TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN MTN THAN EC OR JAPAN, BUT THEY ARE NOW WONDERING IF IT MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE THE OPPOSITE.

6. DRAFTED BY MIMS. MCDONALD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Litigation History:
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